

Clark County Coroner
1704 Pinto Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89106
(702) 455-3210



AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: [REDACTED]

October 3, 2017

AUTOPSY REPORT

PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

[REDACTED]

PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES

I. Gunshot wound of back.

CAUSE OF DEATH: This [REDACTED] year-old female, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] died of gunshot wound of back.

MANNER OF DEATH: HOMICIDE.


JENNIFER CORNEAL, M.D.
Forensic Pathologist

Date signed: 12/20/17

JC/rg/ag

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AUTOPSY REPORT

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October 3, 2017

POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

[REDACTED]

Date of death: 2230 hours on October 1, 2017

Date of autopsy: 2245 hours on October 3, 2017

IDENTIFICATION: The body is identified by a tag on the right great toe bearing the decedent's name and case number.

WITNESSES: Assisting is Forensic Technician Brianna. There are no outside observers.

CLOTHING: The body is unclad when initially viewed. A pair of black shorts, a blue tank top, tan bra and tan underwear accompany the body.

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL THERAPY: None.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

Injuries are described in a separate section below.

GENERAL: The body is that of a normally developed and well-nourished [REDACTED] female appearing consistent with the listed age of 31 years. The length is 73 inches, and the weight is 291 pounds as received. The body is well preserved, cold, and has not been embalmed. Rigidity is fully developed in the jaw and extremities. Lividity is pink-purple, nonblanching, and in a posterior distribution.

HEAD: The scalp is covered with blonde hair measuring up to 9 inches on the top of the head. The ears are normally formed and without drainage. The earlobes are pierced. The irides are brown, the corneas opaque, and the bulbar and palpebral conjunctivae free of petechiae. The sclerae are white. The nose is intact, and the nares are clean and unobstructed. The lips are normally formed. The teeth are natural and in good condition.

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NECK: The neck is symmetrical and without injury.

CHEST AND ABDOMEN: The chest is normally formed, symmetrical, and without palpable masses. The breasts are symmetrical, and without palpable masses.

The abdomen is slightly protuberant and soft. No masses are palpable.

EXTERNAL GENITALIA: The atraumatic external genitalia are those of an adult female.

BACK: The back is straight and symmetrical. The anus is atraumatic.

ARMS: The arms are normally formed. No needle punctures, track marks, or ventral wrist scars are noted. The fingernails are cut short and painted blue.

LEGS: The legs are normally formed and have no edema, amputations, or deformity. The toenails are short, trim, and painted white.

BODY MARKINGS (SCARS AND TATTOOS):
Scars: None identified.

Tattoos:

1. A temporary gold and pink tattoo around the right wrist.

INJURIES, EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL

There is a penetrating gunshot wound of the back. Directions are stated with reference to standard anatomic position.

PENETRATING GUNSHOT WOUND OF BACK:

ENTRANCE: There is an entrance gunshot wound on the left upper back. It is centered 15 inches below the top of the head and 9-1/4

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inches left of midline. It is a 3/16 x 1/8 inch defect with a 1/16 inch rim of abrasion. No soot or stippling is noted on the adjacent skin.

PATH: The projectile enters the left upper back through the left seventh intercostal space posteriorly, fracturing the eighth rib, perforating the lower lobe of the left lung and entering the vertebral column in the disc space between thoracic 8 and 9 (T8-9) vertebrae. There is no injury to the spinal cord. There is 1500 ml of left hemothorax.

PROJECTILE/SITE OF LODGEMENT: A fully jacketed projectile is recovered from the disc space between T8 and T9.

DIRECTION: Front-to-back, left-to-right and slightly downward.

OTHER INJURIES:

There are numerous large blue contusions on the right arm and a purple/pink contusion on the right upper arm. There is a 1/2 x 1/4 inch red abrasion on the right elbow. There is a 1 x 1 inch blue contusion of the left shin.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

BODY CAVITIES: The abdominal fat layer measures up to 6.0 cm in thickness. There is a left hemothorax as described above. The serosal surfaces are smooth, glistening, and without adhesions. The organs are normally located. The diaphragm is intact.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The heart weighs 320 grams and is not enlarged. It has a normal shape with a smooth, glistening epicardium. The coronary arteries have a normal origin and distribution with left dominance. The coronary arteries are less than 10% yellow atherosclerotic stenosis.

The myocardium is red-brown, firm, and uniform without focal fibrosis, softening, or hyperemia. The ventricles are not dilated

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or hypertrophied. The right ventricle, left ventricle, and interventricular septum measure 0.3 cm, 1.0 cm, and 0.9 cm, respectively.

The endocardium is intact, smooth, and glistening. The cardiac valve leaflets are of normal number, pliable, intact, and free of vegetations. The atrial and ventricular septa are free of defects.

The aorta follows its usual course and has no atherosclerotic changes. There are no vascular anomalies or aneurysms. The vena cavae and pulmonary arteries are without thrombus or embolus.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: See injuries external and internal. The right and left lungs weigh 450 and 210 grams, respectively, and have the usual lobation. The pleura are smooth and glistening with focal defect in the lower lobe of the left lung; the lungs have no anthracotic pigment. The lungs are well expanded and crepitant. The parenchyma is dark red and exudes moderate amounts of fluid. The lungs have no consolidation, infarct, tumor, gross fibrosis, or enlargement of airspaces. The bronchi contain no foreign material and have tan-pink mucosa.

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM: The liver weighs 1790 grams. The intact capsule is smooth and glistening. The parenchyma is red-brown and uniform without mass, hemorrhage, yellow discoloration, or palpable fibrosis.

The gallbladder contains less than 5 ml of bile and no stones. Its mucosa is uniform and the wall is not thickened.

The pancreas has a normal size, shape, and lobulated structure. The parenchyma is pink-tan, firm, and uniform.

HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEM: The spleen weighs 210 grams. The capsule is smooth and intact. The parenchyma is maroon, firm, and uniform.

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There is no enlargement of the lymph nodes in the neck, chest, or abdomen.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The thyroid gland is not enlarged, and the lobes are symmetrical. The parenchyma is uniform, firm, and red-brown.

The adrenal glands have the usual size and shape. The cortices are thin, uniform, and yellow and there is no hemorrhage or tumor.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The esophagus and gastroesophageal junction are unremarkable. The stomach contains approximately 250 ml of food and fluid without visible pills or pill residue. The gastric and duodenal mucosae are intact and unremarkable. The small and large intestines and appendix are unremarkable to inspection and palpation.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The right and left kidneys weigh 110 and 130 grams, respectively, and have a normal shape and position. The cortical surfaces are smooth. The kidneys have the usual corticomedullary structure without tumors or cysts. The pelves and ureters are not dilated or thickened. The bladder contains no urine.

The uterus, tubes, and ovaries are of expected size and have smooth serosal surfaces. The cervix is patent with a circular os. The myometrium is uniform and the endometrium is normal. The sectioned ovaries are unremarkable. The vagina is unremarkable.

NECK: The tongue, strap muscles, and other anterior neck soft tissues have no hemorrhage. The hyoid bone and the cartilaginous structures of the larynx and trachea are normally formed and without fracture. The airway is unobstructed, lined by smooth, pink-tan mucosa, and contains no foreign material. The cervical vertebrae have no displacement, hypermobility, or crepitus.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: The musculoskeletal system is well developed and free of deformity. There are no fractures of the

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clavicles, sternum, or pelvis. The ribs are not brittle. The skeletal muscle is dark red and firm.

HEAD: The scalp is free of hemorrhage. The calvarium and base of the skull are normally configured and have no fractures. The dura is intact, and there is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM: The unfixed brain weighs 1410 grams. The leptomeninges are glistening and transparent without underlying hemorrhage, exudate, or cortical contusions. The hemispheres are symmetrical and have a normal gyral pattern. There is no flattening of the gyri, narrowing of the sulci, midline shift, or evidence of herniation. The arteries at the base of brain have no atherosclerotic changes or aneurysms.

Sections through the cerebral hemispheres have a uniform, intact cortical ribbon and uniform white matter. The basal ganglia, thalami, hippocampi and other internal structures are symmetrical and without focal change. The ventricles are not enlarged, and the linings are smooth and glistening. Sections of the brainstem and cerebellum show an intact structure without focal lesions.

SPECIMENS RETAINED

TOXICOLOGY: Samples of peripheral blood, vitreous humor, and liver are retained for toxicology. Toxicological testing detected ethanol (0.067 g/100mL).

HISTOLOGY: Representative sections of organs and tissues are retained.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Digital identification photographs and overall external body photographs, and photographs of the gunshot wound and projectile are taken.

RADIOGRAPHS: Full body radiographs are taken and show a projectile in the area of the mid chest.